

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CHARLES W. ROBINSON)

SUBJECT TNC CONCLUSIONS ON AGRICULTURE

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

FOLLOWING REPEATED GENEVA 0972 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO BERN BONN BRASILIA BURSELS BUENOS AIRES CANBERRA COPENHAGEN

DUBLIN THE HAGUE LONDON LUXEMBOURG MEXICO CITY NEW DELHI

OTTAWA PARIS ROME STOCKHOLM TOKYO WELLINGTON EC BRUSSELS

OECD PARIS FEB 13

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0972

FOR SEIDMAN, WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: TNC CONCLUSIONS ON AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 17938

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1. SUMMARY. U.S. SUCCEEDED IN TNC IN OBTAINING ITS

MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

- A) LAUNCHING OF BARGAINING STAGE OF MTN SO THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON CONCRETE ISSUES CAN BEGIN;
- B) AVOIDING CONCUSION IN TNC THAT REQUIRES "EXCLUSIVE" NEGOTIATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES IN AN AGRUCULTURAL GROUP;
- C) OPTIONS CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAINS OR OTHER SUB-GROUPS UNDER AGRUCULTURE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAINS OR OTHER SUB-GROUPS UNDER AGRICULTURAL GROUP LEFT OPEN.

2. FINAL COMPROMISE PROCEDURE OUTLINED GENEVA 902 ADOPTED. U.S. PRESERVED POSITION ON BREADTH OF COVERAGE OF TARIFF AND NON TARIFF GROUPS. WE ASSUME THAT EC WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK TO MOVE AGRICULTURAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO EC TO AGRICULTURAL GROUPS. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE WILL PROBABLY OCCUR IN CONTEXT OF WORKING PARTIES WHICH BEGIN TO MEETING IN MARCH, BUT DEADLOCK IN TNC LIMELIGHT WAS AVOIDED.

3. IN KEEPING WITH REFTL, U.S. PRESERVED ITS POSITION AND RETAINED ABILITY TO RESIST EC SHOULD ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUE BE RAISED AGAIN. FINAL STATEMENTS OF MEXICANS, INDIANS AND OTHER DELEGATIONS SUGGEST WE WILL NOT BE ALONE ON THIS ISSUE IN FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

4. MALMGREN AGREED MIDAFTERNOON WEDNESDAY WITH EC ON AGRICULTURAL PARAGRAPH IN TNC CHAIRMAN LONG'S SUMMARY ON BASIS TELCON WITH WASHINGTON PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL, AND IN FURTHERANCE OF U.S. POSITION UNDERLYING REFTEL.

5. AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL (8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13) U.S. (WOLFF, GLITMAN, GOODMAN, KONIG, KELLY) MT WITH EC (HIJZEN, ABBOTT, PIZZUTI) PRIOR TO FINAL TNC SESSION TO REITERATE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COMPROMISE REACHED WITH EC WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12. HIJZEN STATED EC MEMBERS STATES COULD NOT SUBSCRIBE TO ALL OUR POINTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MATTER IN WHICH THEY WERE STATED IN REFTEL. HOWEVER HIJZEN ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. RIGHT TO ITS INTERPRETATION ON BASIS OF ANTICIPATED SUMMATION BY CONFIDENTIAL

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TNC CHAIRMAN. HIJZEN SAID THAT IF U.S. WERE TO MAKE STATEMENT AT TNC WITH SPECIFICITY CONTAINED REFTEL, EC WOULD BE COMPELLED TO MAKE SHARP COUNTER STATEMENT THAT WOULD CREATE PUBLIC CONFRONTATION AND POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN OF MTN BEFORE IT REALLY BEGAN.

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIJZEN DID NOT CHALLENGE RIGHT OF U.S. AND OTHERS TO NEGOTIATE ON AGRICULTURAL

TARIFFS AND NTBS IN TARIFFS AND NTB GROUPS. HE FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN CASES WHERE AGRICULTURAL GROUP MIGHT CONCERN ITSELF WITH AGRICULTURAL ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED INTARIFF AND NONTARIFF GROUPS, IT COULD ACT IN A CONSULTATIVE ROL AND NEED NOT BE A NEGOTIATING FORUM. HEALSO DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT TARIFF OR NTB AND AGRICULTURE WORKING PARTIES.

7. HIJZEN WAS IN SUM (A) PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE ABOVE TO US PRSONLALY, (B) PREPARED IN A NONCONFRONTATIONAL WAY TO AGREE TO DISAGREE PUBLICLY WHERE AMBIGUITIES EXISTED, AND (C) PREPARED TO ACCEPT FACT THAT BOTH PARTIES COULD INTERPRET CHAIRMAN'S SUMMATION IN A MANNER NOT PREJUDICING EACH PARTY'S OWN POSITION. UPSHOT WAS THAT U.S. AND EC AGREED TO MAKE CONCLUDING STATEMTNS CONTAINED SEPTEL IN EFFECT PRESERVING POSITION IN AREAS OF AMBIGIUIITY WHICH MIGHT ARISE WHILE AGREEING TO LET NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN WITHOUT PROVOKING MAJOR CONFRONTATION AT OUTSET.

8. NEXT SERIES OF GROUP MEETINGS WILL BEGIN TO SET PRECEDENTS WHICH WILL DETERMINE ACTUAL FRUNCTIONING OF MTN STRUCTURE. IN THE MEETINGS, EC WILL VERY LIKELY TRY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN BARGAINING POSITION VIA PROCEDURAL MANEUVERS. ORDER IN WHICH GROUPS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET (DON AT U.S. REQUEST) SHOULD HELP US IN THIS REGARD. DALE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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